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## REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON MESOPOTAMIAN ARCHAEOLOGY

*To the Council of the Archaeological Institute of America:*

I have the honor to report for the Committee on Mesopotamian Archaeology as follows: Acting under the authority granted it by the Council, the Committee at the beginning of the year elected Professor James A. Montgomery, of the University of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Edward T. Newell, of the Numismatic Society of New York, to membership in the Committee. It also reports with sorrow that, by the death of Professor Morris Jastrow, Jr., on June 22, the Committee lost one of its most energetic and valued members, and one whom it had hoped to send to Babylonia during the present winter.

Early in the year the Committee took measures looking toward the establishment of an American School of Archaeology at Bagdad, and is happy to report that the undertaking is now on the eve of being accomplished. Your committee united with the Executive Committee of the American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem and obtained in June a charter under the laws of the District of Columbia under the name "American Schools of Oriental Research." The members of your committee are numbered among the trustees of this institution. It is the purpose of this corporation to carry on the School at Jerusalem and establish one also at Bagdad. Possibly in the future other schools may be established by it in the East, if circumstances call for them.

At the meeting of the Trustees of the American Schools held on September 27th, it was voted to begin the School at Bagdad as soon as political conditions in Mesopotamia make it safe to do so. Arrangements have been made with the American Consul for housing the School, and at the meeting referred to the Trustees made a modest appropriation from funds especially given for

archaeological work, to help in starting it. A plan was also adopted looking toward the securing of annual subscriptions from the universities and colleges which maintain Assyriological Departments and from individuals for the maintenance of the School. Such subscriptions are now being secured.

It is proposed to operate the School in connection with the School at Jerusalem. When peace is established and the railways are open, a professor, accompanied by students, can go to Bagdad from Jerusalem for the part of the year when life is endurable at Bagdad, and return to Jerusalem for the rest of the time. As such professors will differ from year to year, it has been decided for the present for the sake of preserving continuity of policy, to appoint a Director, who shall hold office from year to year, even though he remain most of the time in America. The Trustees have, accordingly, elected the Chairman of your committee Director, and Professor Albert T. Clay, of Yale, as Professor in the School. With this organization it will be possible to actually begin our work at Bagdad as soon as the political conditions in Mesopotamia permit. We hope that the establishment of Prince Feisal as King of Mesopotamia may rapidly pacify the country and that Professor Clay may be able to go out this winter.

Your committee has also been permitted to examine the Library bequeathed to the School by the late Reverend Dr. William Hayes Ward, and to confer with his executor. The plans which we have adopted are satisfactory to his executor, who stands in readiness to transfer the library to us as soon as the School is established.

Your committee would request on behalf of the Trustees of the American Schools of Oriental Research, that the appropriation of \$1000 made last year to the Mesopotamian Committee by the Council, which is still unpaid, be paid to the said Trustees, to be employed as a fellowship for the Bagdad School, and that hereafter the Institute contribute to the Bagdad School a like sum annually to be similarly employed. The Institute would thus extend to the work at Bagdad the same fostering care that it has extended to the other schools.

Since the care of the undertaking which your committee was appointed to promote has now been assumed by the corporation of the American Schools of Oriental Research, and this

corporation will represent the interests of the Institute in Archaeological matters in Mesopotamia as well as in Palestine, the work of the committee would seem to be accomplished. The committee would therefore request to be discharged.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE A. BARTON,  
*Chairman.*

Bryn Mawr, Pa.

Nov. 12, 1921.